**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] In one aspect, the invention relates to a lensed fiber which comprises an optical fiber and a lens formed at a distal end of the optical fiber. The lens has a minimum diameter determined by $2 \cdot T \cdot \tan(\theta)$, where ~~$\theta = n \cdot \sin^{-1}(NA)$~~ $\theta = \sin^{-1}(NA/n)$, T is thickness of the lens, n is index of refraction of the lens, and NA is numerical aperture of the optical fiber.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In another aspect, the invention relates to a method of making a lensed fiber having an optical fiber and a lens which comprises splicing an optical fiber to a coreless fiber having a minimum diameter determined by $2 \cdot T \cdot \tan(\theta)$, where ~~$\theta = n \cdot \sin^{-1}(NA)$~~ $\theta = \sin^{-1}(NA/n)$, T is thickness of the lens, n is index of refraction of the lens, and NA is numerical aperture of the optical fiber. The method further includes reducing the coreless fiber to a desired length based on the thickness of the lens and forming a predetermined radius of curvature at a distal end of the coreless fiber.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] The lens 202 has a convex surface 210 with a radius of curvature (Rc). Unlike the prior-art lenses discussed in the background section, the overall diameter of the lens 202 is not coupled to the radius of curvature of the convex surface 210. Instead, the minimum diameter of the lens 202 is determined by the size of the beam at the apex 212 of the lens 202. The minimum diameter ($D_{min}$) can be calculated using the following expression:

$$D_{min} = 2 \cdot T \cdot \tan(\theta) \quad (1)$$

where

~~$\theta = n \cdot a\sin(NA)$~~ $\theta = \sin^{-1}(NA/n)$ (2)

where T is the thickness of the lens 202, n is index of refraction of the lens 202, and NA is the numerical aperture of the optical fiber 204.